

RUSSIA AM) THE WEST IN IRAN

These resolutions not only reveal the growing dissatisfaction with the regime that, on theoretical grounds, seemed acceptable to Communists. (This new trend, somewhat revisionist in character, had to find its final expression after the Sixth Congress of the Comintern.)

They also indicate that the revolution in Iran and the interests of the Soviet Union were continuously identified in the minds of the Comintern leaders, who, on their part, never ceased to be vigilant over party activities there.

COMINTERN AND G.P.U. IN IRAN¹⁴²

In the promotion of the revolution in Iran both the Third International and the G.P.U. were of prime importance. Theoretically the functions and aims of these two organizations were different. While the Comintern aimed at the ideological guidance of Communism all over the world and at organizational help to its national sections, the G.P.U. was to perform tasks of a more concrete character. In practice, however, the work of one body was parallel and closely related to the activity of the other.

The G.P.U., an undaunted "sword of the revolution," was an institution as old as the Soviet regime itself. It developed an elaborate organization, which extended not only throughout Russia but to foreign countries as well. Oriental matters were dealt with by two sections: the Eastern Section (V.O.) for work among the Asiatic peoples of the Soviet Union and the Foreign Section, which through its "Oriental Sector" was competent to deal with areas outside the U.S.S.R. The Foreign Section normally acted through agents called G.P.U. residents. These, in turn, were divided into "legal" and "illegal" or "secret" residents. A legal resident was one

who nominally
had another function for the Soviet government: that
of consul, com-

32 The information contained in this section is drawn from
three chief sources:
Georges Agabekov, *op. cit.*; Alexander Barmine, *op. cit.*; and
Grigory Besscdovsky,
Revelations of a Soviet Diplomat (London, 1931). All three authors
had been high
officials in the Soviet hierarchy and had escaped from Russia and
written their
memoirs. In some points their stories overlap. This fact helps
to dispel doubts,
if any, regarding the reliability of their extraordinary personal
testimony. Aga-
bekov's book is especially valuable because of the names and
details mentioned in
describing the G.P.U. and Comintern work in the Middle East.
A number of
these names may be found also in the official publication of the
Comintern, the
International Press Correspondence.